



Flathead Conservation District
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CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE: Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

Also in attendance were: Lori Curtis, Associate Supervisor; Valerie Kurth, Ginger Kauffman and Kari Musgrove, FCD staff; Angel Rosario, NRCS; Caryn Miske & Heidi Sedivy, Flathead Basin Commission.

MINUTES: Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 310-meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. SWCDMI 319 Mini-grant applications due October 13, 2015
2. DNRC looking for a CD to host the 2016 Montana Range Tour. Contact Stacey Barta, DNRC, 406-444-6619 by November 1st.
3. Gallatin CD has a position opening for a Natural Resource Specialist.
info@gallatincd.org
4. MACD received a formal response from Governor Steve Bullock to comments submitted to the state regarding draft Bison Environmental Impact Statement.
5. DNRC RRGL Watershed Management program information.
6. October issue of Meagher CD newsletter
7. October 14, 2015 issue of MACD's "The Montana Conservationist" at
<http://macdnet.org>
8. Letter from WWC Engineering, who is now on the DNRC approved list for helping CD's with technical reviews.
9. CD Supervisors, Staff, FWP Biologists, NRCS are invited to the Beaverhead CD 310-workshop, January 2016. Workshop includes processing on-site inspection paperwork, district legal obligations etc. Contact 406-683-3802

FINANCIAL: The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$249.26
2. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00
3. VISA \$1652.30

Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the bills as presented." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) UPDATE & DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

PRESENTATION: Heidi Sedivy and Caryn Miske, Flathead Basin Commission (FBC), thanked the Board for their support of the AIS program, and noted they now have a better estimate of costs to run the stations. Heidi reported another infested boat was found at the Browning Station at the end of the season; thus 3 out of the 8 infested boats found in Montana were detected at the Browning Station. Heidi also noted local law enforcement was helpful in making sure vehicles went through the stations for inspection.

Caryn Miske gave the following update on the Drought Management Pilot Project: During the 2013 legislation session, Montana DNRC was charged with developing drought management plans as part of its State Water Plan. The FBC, as a member of the Clark Fork River Basin Task Force, participated in the development of the Water Supply Initiative Draft Plan for the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins, which calls for the development of drought management plans. DNRC identified water bodies in the Flathead Basin subject to drought conditions during times of water scarcity based on physical and legal water availability. Those water bodies included Swan Lake, Ashley Creek, Middle and North Forks of the Flathead River, Walker, and Truman Creek. The FBC will model a Drought Management Plan based on a plan developed by the Blackfoot Challenge in 2000. Public participation and input is needed to determine which body of water/basin with an agricultural component, will work best to create a pilot drought management project in 2016.

Caryn asked if the Board had any suggestions on how they can proceed with the pilot drought planning effort. The Board noted that some of the water bodies on the DNRC list have very few agricultural components, and they suggested that it might be better to expand the scope beyond agriculture. The Flathead is different from the Blackfoot basin in that there are water quantity issues, large fluctuations in the water tables, numerous residential wells, and municipal issues. Caryn asked if there are areas not on the DNRC list that would be more pertinent. The Board noted the Stillwater River, Whitefish River, and main stem of the Flathead River. The Board also suggested Caryn and Heidi contact NRCS, Haskill Basin Watershed Council, Flathead River Commission, and the City of Whitefish.

Caryn thanked the board for their input and stated the FBC will further review agricultural uses as the information from DNRC does not match what is true on the ground. They will also re-evaluate the model's potential for the Flathead Basin.

310's:

GARDNER, FL2015063, Patrick Creek, culverts: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the application with modifications per Dean Sirucek's and Kenny Breidinger's team member reports." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

GLACIER STONE CO.: Ronald Buentemeier reported during a 310-onsite, he & FWP noticed Glacier Stone Supply's waste pile is running into the stream. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to approve sending the letter as prepared to Glacier Stone Supply." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD 2016 REPRESENTATIVE: Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to appoint Dean Sirucek as the FCD representative to the Flathead County Planning Board for another term." Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MACD RESOLUTIONS, BOARD REP. & GROUP AUTHORIZATION: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "appoint Ronald Buentemeier as the FCD primary voting delegate, and Pete Woll as the alternate voting member at the 2015 convention." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Siderius made a motion "the FCD supports Resolution 15-1." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Siderius made a motion "the FCD supports Resolution 15-2." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dean Sirucek made a motion "the FCD supports the proposed MACD By-Law amendments." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC) – BOARD OPENING/AD: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "to approve Flathead CD placing and paying for an ad for the FRC open position/s." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OFFICE CLOSURE REQUEST: Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to allow staff to close the office the Friday following Thanksgiving, November 27th; and allow them to use comp time or annual leave." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Valerie Kurth reported DNRC just released a new watershed grant program, and noted this could be used to fund up to \$5000 of the host site costs of supporting a Big Sky Watershed Corp Member. The application deadline is November 20. Discussion held. Camisha Sawtelle made a motion "to approve Valerie Kurth moving forward with applying for the watershed management grant to provide additional funding for the Big Sky Watershed Corp Member." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LIDAR: Valerie Kurth reported Richard Meneke, Glacier National Park, is requesting support for Lidar collection focused on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve \$500 for Lidar for the Middle Fork if the Department of Interior Inland Oil Spill grant is approved." Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried with a 4-3 vote.

STAFF EVALUATIONS: Valerie reported Ginger Kauffman's evaluation was completed 10/22/2015. Discussion held. Camisha Sawtelle made a motion "to approve the proposed step increase for Ginger Kauffman to Grade 7 Step 9." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pete Woll reported Valerie Kurth's evaluation was completed 10/21/2015. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the proposed increase for Valerie Kurth to Grade 7 Step 10." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pete Woll made a motion "both Ginger's and Valerie's pay increases go into effect on October 31, 2015." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EDUCATION GRANT (Deer Park): Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to approve the reallocation of spending for the Deer Park School Dist. #2 Education grant as stated in letter dated October 6, 2015 from Laurie Lapan." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

YOUTH CAMPS: Kari Musgrove asked if the board would be interested in supporting local youth attending Glacier Institute camps. Discussion held. The board asked Kari to bring further information on each of the camps to the November business meeting.

WORLD SOIL DAY EVENT: Kari Musgrove updated the board on the World Soil Day event, and asked if the district would be interested in additional online advertising with the Flathead Beacon. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to approve purchasing the online ad for Symphony of the Soil Day in the amount of \$252." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WEED WORKSHOP: Kari Musgrove asked if the board would be interested in additional online advertising for the Weed Workshop. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "to postpone any advertising on the Weed Workshop until we see what happens with World Soil Day." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the September 2015 End of Month budget report." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

NRCS REPORT & APPROVED NRCS CONTRACTS: Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported:

- Certification follow-ups
- NRCS Public Affairs video re: local EQIP practices
- Appeals training
- Soil Health Seminar November 2nd in Missoula
- Montana Land Reliance forum November 10

Angél briefly reviewed approved NRCS contracts with the board, and Chairman Ronald Buentemeier signed the contracts.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Valerie Kurth reported:

310s: I accompanied Pete Woll and Leo Rosenthal on two 310 onsite visits near Bigfork on 9/29/15.

District Office

1. Area V meeting at the Libby Dam on 9/30/15.
2. I conducted Ginger Kauffman's performance evaluation on 10/22/15.
3. I drafted a letter to Glacier Stone Supply, LLC.
4. I conducted phone interviews for the District's Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) member on 10/23/15 with help from Dean Sirucek and John Ellis. Dean and I also contacted the candidates' references.

Project planning/outreach

1. River Restoration Tour on 10/1/15.
2. I reviewed portions of the Whitefish Lake Institute's Status Report and added information about Haskill Basin Watershed Council and their projects. I also participated in the WLI task prioritization meeting on 10/6/15.
3. I attended the Montana Section of the American Water Resources Association 2015 Conference 10/7-10/9/15 in Missoula.
4. The Krause Creek Watershed Planning grant was funded for \$25,000.

River Steward/River to Lake Initiative: I helped interview and score the BSWC candidates for next year's River Steward.

Seedling Program: We have received and processed three seedling orders for next year, and we have had several other inquiries about the program. I attended the Kalispell Tree Breakfast on 10/20/15, and I told the other participants about the District's seedling program.

Sourcebook Curriculum Project: Lori Curtis and I met on 10/6/15 to review the project budget and timeline. The educator workshop to introduce the Guide is scheduled for 11/21/15 at Flathead Lake Biological Station. I am coordinating the partners on workshop outreach, and, so far, nine educators are planning to participate in the workshop and an additional four will help review the Guide. We will be offering professional development credits for teachers. The team from Montana State University is working on addressing the partner comments and making the lesson format consistent. I expect to have a final draft back from them by the end of October.

Trumbull Creek Project: I coordinated the permitting to complete the work on Trumbull Creek, including extensions on the 124 Permit and 318 Authorization and a new Floodplain Permit. The Floodplain Permit Application is currently under review until 11/9/15. I am conducting landowner outreach so they are aware of the project's progress.

ASSISTANT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Kari Musgrove reported:

The Education Grant Program: We continue to receive positive feedback for supporting conservation education in the Flathead. Most recently Eliza Ann Sorte-Thomas, Director of the Northwest Montana Educational Cooperative, thanked the District 10/22/15, at her meeting. Eliza invited me to the meeting to share the District's education resources. The Cooperative serves 40 plus schools.

World Soil Day, Saturday, December 5: Produce donated by Terrapin Farm, Two Bear Farm, Kalispell Creamery, Farm to Market Pork, Bob Storer, and Tiffany Bitney King will be used by Flathead High School's culinary students to make a creamy potato, sausage, and kale soup, cherry cobbler, and summer squash cakes to serve at the event. The Environmental Systems and Societies students will create soil science posters to display at the event. Sammy Soil & a gigantic inflatable Earth will be there to represent World Soil Day.

Small Landowners' Weed Workshop, March 3 & 9, 2016: We are developing a weed game to teach integrated weed management at the workshop. This year we will have one night of lectures, and one night of demonstrations.

Thursday, March 3: Speakers

- 1.) Weed ID, Dawn Lafleur, Glacier National Park
- 2.) Integrated Weed Management, Tris Hoffman, Flathead National Forest
- 3.) Chemical Labels, Kima Caddell, Montana Department of Ag

Wednesday, March 9: Demonstrations

- 1.) How to Calibrate a Sprayer
- 2.) Integrated Weed Management Game
- 3.) Basic Safety Instructions

Sourcebook workshop, November 21 at the Biological Station: I shared my contact list from the PLT teacher workshop with the group organizing the Sourcebook workshop. I believe some of these teachers will be attending. I also advertised the workshop at the PLT workshop, the COCEEC meeting, and most recently at the Co-op meeting.

AWRA Conference, October 7-9:

- Panel discussion: Restoration Success-past, present, future.
- Went on a field trip to look at work being done on the Bitterroot River.
- Keynote speaker: Eloise Kendy, The Nature Conservancy. Historic return of the Colorado River to its Delta in the US and Mexico.
- Special speaker: Phil Farnes, Reminiscing 60 years a Snow Hydrologist-Then and Now.

Beacon Ads:

October: Fall 310-Permit ad, Fall program ad

November: Seedling Program, World Soil Day

December: World Soil Day

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: Dean Sirucek reported the next meeting will be held November 18 in Pablo. Lori Curtis agreed to attend in Dean's place.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported the last meeting included a zone change on Whitefish Stage; a second zone change on Tronstad Road & Sirucek Lane; Evergreen Enterprise Zone text amendment/zoning overlay – all three were passed on to the Flathead County Commissioners with favorable recommendations.

MACD REPORT: Pete Woll reported the MACD Board conference call included discussion of area meetings and the upcoming convention.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported no meeting was held due to lack of quorum. The next meeting is November 5.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION: Mark Siderius reported the Bureau of Mines will hold an informational meeting in the spring.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL: Camisha Sawtelle reported the next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 28, 6:00 PM.

CLARK FORK TASK FORCE: No report.

SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: Lori Curtis reported an additional \$2000 in grant money was received for the project.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- **CONVENTION**
- **PLANNING MEETING BIG SKY WATERSHED WORK AGENDA:** This will be placed on the November 310-meeting agenda
- **310 APPLICATION PROCESS:** This will be placed on the November 310-meeting agenda.

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2015, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Pete Woll made a motion "to adjourn." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

11/9/2015 Ronald Buentemeier Chairman
(Date) (Signature) (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)